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Maps of Palestine December 1920



Map of the borders of the Jewish National Home in Palestine as demarcated in the December 1920 Franco-British Boundary Convention. (map courtesy of Eli Hertz, www.mythsandfacts.org.)

The Fra

The San Remo Resolution (April 24-25, 1920) stipulated that the borders of the Jewish National Home were to be determined by the Franco-British Boundary Commission. The British and French signed a treaty delineating the borders of the territory that would be placed under the Mandate for Palestine.

The territory included in the 1920 convention included most of the land that had been under the Ottoman Empire. The Golan Heights was supposed to be part of the Syrian Mandate (see the Adam Smith map of 1920). The eastern Jordan was also included.

The Convention involved bitter negotiations. The French were opposed to giving up control of the Golan Heights. In the end, the British had guaranteed they would protect access to the sea.

Additionally, the British gave the French administered mandates large amounts of land that was to be given to the Jewish National Home.

Israel/Lebanon border extending north to the Litani River bend as well as the central Golan Heights

...to postpone or withhold

According to Article 25 of the Mandate for Palestine, the Mandatory (His Britannic Majesty) was to be done with the approval of the League of Nations:

"In the territories lying between the Jordan and the eastern boundary of Palestine as ultimately determined, the Mandatory shall, subject to the provisions of this article, have full power to do all such things as he may consider necessary for the well-being and the interests of the inhabitants of those territories, provided that no action shall be taken which is inconsistent with the provisions of this article."

The wording, "postpone or withhold application of such provisions of this mandate as he may consider inapplicable to the existing conditions," was only valid until there was a change in the conditions leading to that decision. It did not authorize the Mandatory to postpone or withhold application of such provisions of this mandate as he may consider inapplicable to the existing conditions.

Furthermore, according to Article 25, the postponement or withholding of the application of the provisions of this mandate as he may consider inapplicable to the existing conditions is not permitted.

"No discrimination of any kind shall be made between the inhabitants of Palestine on the ground of race, religion or language."

The British "White Papers" policies, which prohibited Jewish settlement East of the Jordan, constituted a violation of Article 15, as well as Article 5 of the Mandate which stated that "no Palestine territory shall be reserved for any other people."

The full text of Articles 5, 15, and 25:

ARTICLE 5. The Mandatory shall be responsible for seeing that no Palestine territory shall be reserved for any other people.

ARTICLE 15. The Mandatory shall see that complete freedom of conscience and the free exercise of the rights of worship, subject to the rights and customs of the majority, shall be made between the inhabitants of Palestine on the ground of religion or race.

ARTICLE 25. In the territories lying between the Jordan and the eastern boundary of Palestine as ultimately determined, the Mandatory shall, subject to the provisions of this article, have full power to do all such things as he may consider necessary for the well-being and the interests of the inhabitants of those territories, provided that no action shall be taken which is inconsistent with the provisions of this article."

